© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. WWW.MARVEL.COM

VENOM #5

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

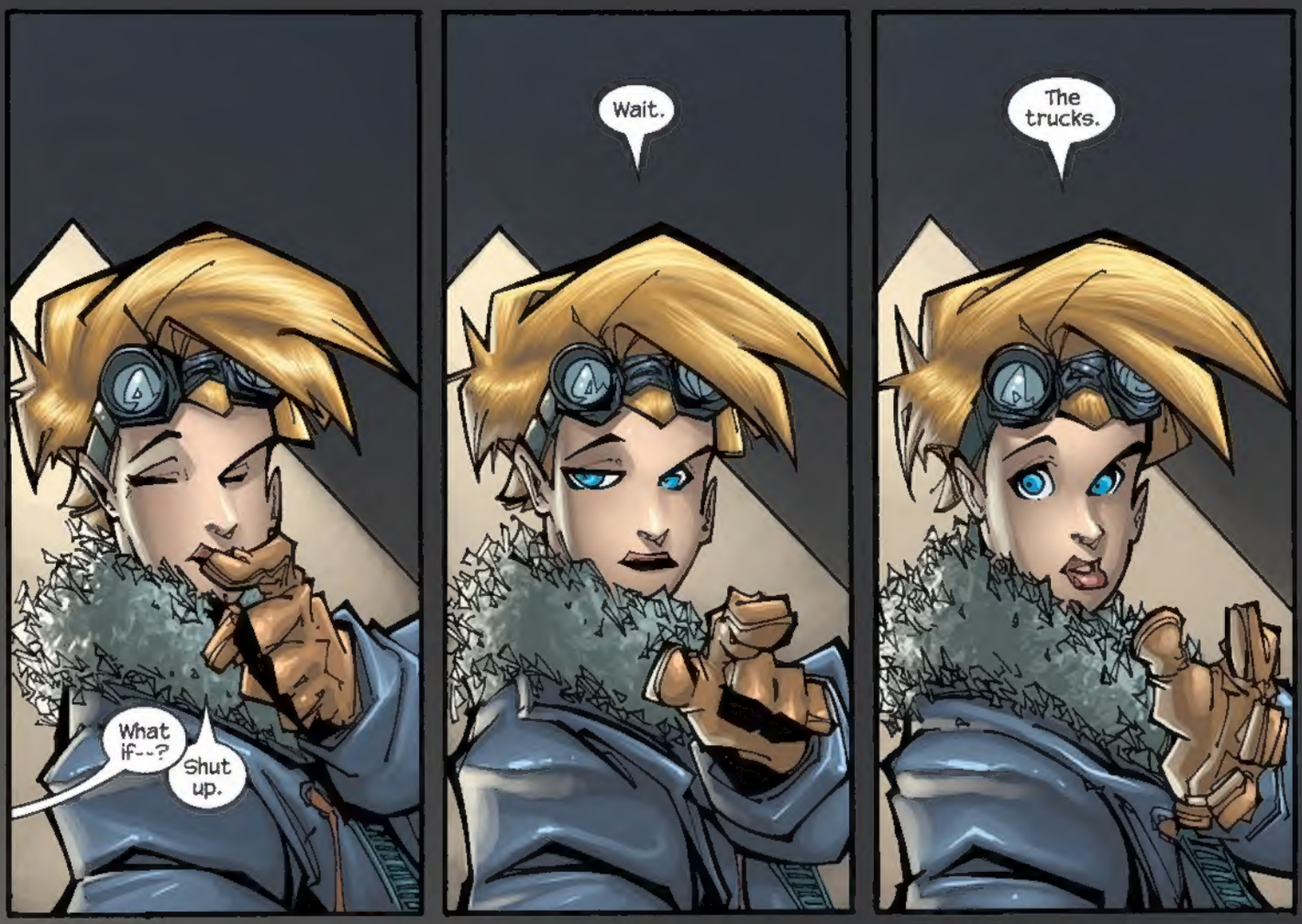
DZZZT!

DZZZT!
DZZZT!
DZZZT!
DZZZT!
DZZZT!

Now, where were we...

How...
...do I...
...kill it?
Y-you can't!
We tested it against everything--it won't die! The closest we ever came was to force it into a dormant state!
Tell me how.
It...it feeds off living hosts, okay? So, when you take away its food supply, it shuts down to conserve energy.
That's why we brought it here, to the Arctic--that way, if it ever escaped, it'd be limited by the environment as to how far it could go.
But it did escape.
We... underestimated it.

KRACK!
Underestimated it?!
You little lowlife--what did you think that monster would do?! Did you even think at all?!
It-it was my job! I had to!
I'm-- I'm sorry!
HURGH!
WHUMP!
Don't... ever...say that to me again.


What if--?
Shut up.
Wait.
The trucks.

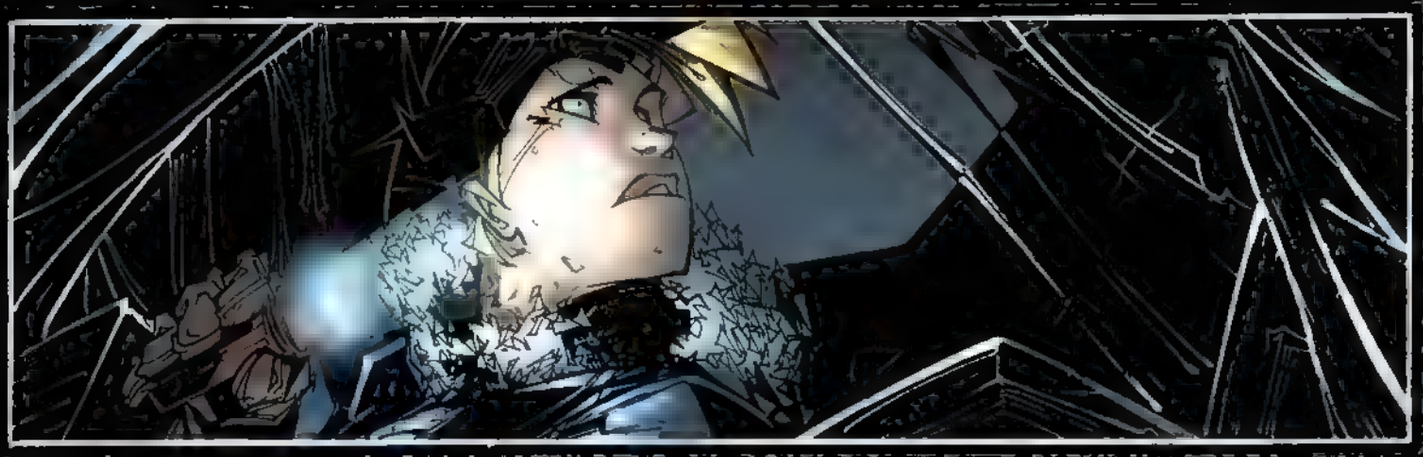
We'll take one of the trucks, torch the rest.
We'll strand it here. Let's go.

Y-you mean--out *there?* But what if it's *waiting* for us?

If? It *is* waiting for us.

Can I have a *gun*, at least?
No!
Wh-why not?
When I found you, you were locked in that cooler... *alone.*
Everyone else was piled up outside the door. Everyone else was *dead.*
You *knew* what that thing was gonna do, but you decided to save *yourself.*
You *let them* die.
If we get outta this alive, I'm gonna make sure that you burn for what you've done. You're a *coward* and a *lowlife.*
And I'm not gonna turn my back on you for a *sec*--

BWOOOM!



Hey--you okay?

I...I think so.

What *was* that?
I don't know.
But we're gonna go find out.

The trucks.
It blew up the trucks.

What... what do we do now?
We're trapped.
No...
There's-- there's another way outta here.
But it's suicide.
I mean... we're dead anyway, right?
Well--I don't know about you, but-- I'm willing to try it...whatever it is.
Good point.
Let's go.
We gotta move fast. If that thing is trying to trap us, then--
That is incorrect.

The creature wants to escape. The last thing it would do is eliminate a possible escape route.
I destroyed the vehicles to keep it here.
What're you waiting for--shoot him! He's--he's part of this whole thing, I know it! Shoot him!
Jackson already did.
Point blank.
In the head
Yes, he did. I do not expect you to believe me, but I have come from a planet far away on a mission to destroy this creature. If I fail, you and the entirety of your race will die.
He's lying! Shoot him before it's too late!
I am not lying. You must not believe what that man is telling you.
Why not?
Because.
He is not a man.

Not anymore.
AAAHHHHH

Calm down... your fear stimulates the creature.
How... how did it--
The creature is an accomplished mimic. Its race has survived for eons through its ability to remain camouflaged. It is almost impossible to contain.
Th-there are *more* of these?
Millions.
But none like this.
Wh-what's it *doing?* Why isn't it attacking us?
The host organism has died.
Once it has expelled the carcass it will jump.
Prepare yourself.

Prepare myself... for what?
I cannot allow it to assume another host
You must trust m--
NOO!
FZZAKKT!

SQUIK!
This is regrettable.
HSSSSSSS
I will delay the creature, but you must now do as I say, quickly and calmly.
Kill the--
KRAKK!

DIE YOU &$%*^$!
BRAKK-AKK-AKK-AKK
BUT I'M HAVING SO...
...MUCH...
...FUN!
OH, YES...
...MY FAVORITE GAME.

AND JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE GOTTEN AWAY...
...I LET YOU RUN...
...YOU REALIZE THAT I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
Oh--
OOF--!
No!
NOOOOO!
BRAKK-AKK-AKK-AKK
CLIK

CLIK CLIK CLIK
--Where?
RRAAA! RRAAA! RRAAA!
RRAAA! RRAAA! RRAAA!
The dogs...

RRAR!
RROOOOWWW-!
NOOO!

It's... gone.
Yes.
And yet you remain.
ZZZHAKKK!
DEET DEET DEET
I have failed...

"...it has broken containment.
"I will, of course, follow.
"Agreed--its resourcefulness is rivaled only by its ferocity.
"There is no doubt that, left unchallenged, it will eventually kill every living thing on this planet."
NEXT: RUN

EMPIRE